

Community Air Monitoring Workshop: Air Quality Priority: Open Burning and Illegal Dumping

Purpose of This Document

- Summarize the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee (CSC) air quality concerns;
- Provide information on parts of the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) describing air monitoring strategies aimed at addressing air quality concerns due to open burning and illegal dumping;
- Gather feedback from the CSC

Community Concerns (CC)

The ECV CSC has expressed the following concerns regarding issues of open burning and illegal dumping that may negatively impact air quality and the life of local community members:

- | | |
|------|--|
| CC-1 | Adverse health effects of air pollution from open burning (i.e., smoke, particulate matter (PM), potential pesticides being burned). |
| CC-2 | Emissions from burning occurring near schools, childcare centers, and homes, and the health impacts on those community members. |
| CC-3 | Burns that are not permitted and burn uncontrollably (e.g., the 2019 50-acre mulch fire at a recycling center in Thermal). |
| CC-4 | Open burning (e.g., agricultural and non-agricultural) occurring on tribal lands, which falls outside of South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, and are therefore not subject to South Coast AQMD's open burning regulation. |
| CC-5 | Emissions from permitted agricultural burning, where there may be opportunities to further reduce emissions (e.g., rule amendment, incentivize alternatives to burning). |
| CC-6 | Waste is being illegally dumped because of a lack of regulatory enforcement and may subsequently catch fire. |

Proposed Air Monitoring Strategies to Address Open Burning and Illegal Dumping

Below are potential strategies and actions to address CSC concerns about emissions from open burning and illegal dumping.

Goals	Proposed Air Monitoring Strategies	Current Air Monitoring Activities	Seeking CSC Input
Supplement monitoring network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy air quality sensors to establish a monitoring network to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain a better understanding of the locations, frequency, and magnitude of smoke impacts from legal and illegal burning occurring in the community Identify locations that are impacted by the smoke Improve public information on PM2.5 levels in the community (e.g., better characterize the spatial and temporal variability of PM2.5 in the community) <p>Community Concern(s) Addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-3, CC-4, CC-5, CC-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Coast AQMD currently operates one PM2.5 monitor at the Indio Air Monitoring Station. Data is available in near real-time at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 617 Data Display Tool: http://www.aqmd.gov/ab617-data-display-tool/ecv 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input on sensor locations and locations of potential legal/illegal burning activities Input on size of sensor network (i.e., number of sensors) Input on CSC and/or community participation and hosting sensors Input on timeline for sensor deployment Input on data display
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplement the existing network to include a black carbon monitor to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complement ongoing PM2.5 measurements and better characterize emissions from open burning <p>Community Concern(s) Addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-3, CC-4, CC-5, CC-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Coast AQMD will pursue opportunities to augment a monitoring station with a black carbon monitor to better characterize emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input on location



Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Eastern Coachella Valley Community South Coast Air Quality Management District

Input Gathering Worksheet for Monitoring Emissions From Open Burning and Illegal Dumping Activities

Please provide information and suggestions on potential air monitoring locations where open burning and illegal dumping occurs frequently.

**Please provide information and suggestions on potential locations for sensor deployment.
Feel free to include a list of community members who may be willing to host a sensor at their
private residence(NOTE: each sensor will measure PM, NO2 and O3).**

**Please provide any input you may have regarding other monitoring purposes and objectives
for open burning and illegal dumping activities.**

Note: Information provided by you on this worksheet (including contact or other personal information) is a public record and may be released in response to a California Public Records Act request.

CAMP Subchapter on Open Burning and Illegal Dumping

The ECV community has a large agricultural industry, including the production of grapes, dates, citrus, and other crops. the burning of agricultural waste is a common method of disposal. In some cases, burning may occur to prevent crops from freezing. The CSC also identified illegal dumping of various waste materials, which can subsequently catch fire, as an air quality priority. The open burning can cause smoke, impacting schools, childcare centers, and homes.

The main strategy to characterize emissions from open burning in this community will center around the deployment of a network of air quality sensors to measure PM_{2.5} in potentially impacted areas. Due to the sporadic nature of open burning, fixed monitors are necessary to capture the spatial and temporal variability of emissions. Fixed monitoring will provide real-time air quality data to gain a better understanding of the locations, frequency, and magnitude of PM emissions from open burning, help identify the locations impacted by the smoke, and improve overall public information on PM_{2.5} levels in the community.

South Coast AQMD staff will work with the CSC to effectively deploy these sensors at appropriate locations. South Coast AQMD will also pursue opportunities to augment one of the existing and/or new monitoring stations with a black carbon monitor to better characterize emissions. Black carbon is a by-product of biomass burning but can also be emitted from diesel mobile sources.